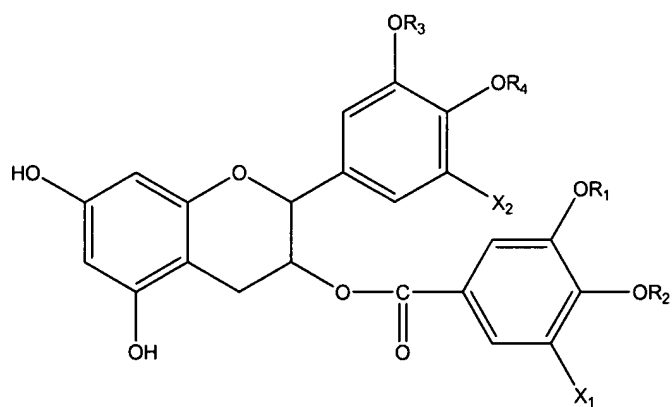


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A functional beverage containing an O-methylated catechin expressed by the chemical formula (1) shown below, wherein the functional beverage contains the O-methylated catechin in a quantity of active ingredient as an allergic rhinitis-suppressing drug, a lipid-lowering drug and a gallbladder/liver function-improving drug and wherein the functional beverage contains the O-methylated catechin in an amount of 1 mg to 30 mg per 100 ml of the beverage.



• • Chemical formula (1)

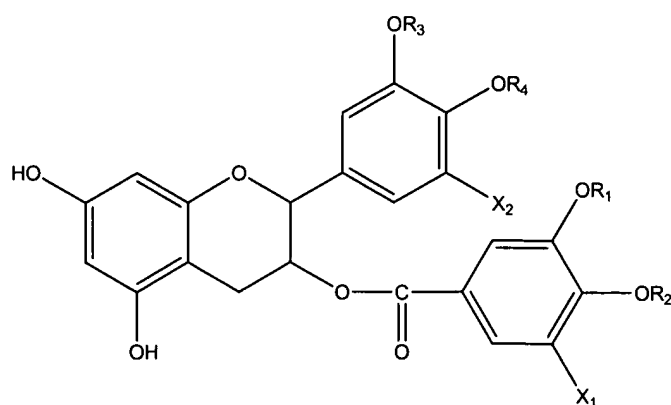
[in which R1, R2, R3 and R4 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, X1 and X2 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group.]

2. (Original) The functional beverage according to claim 1, wherein the functional beverage is produced by extracting tea leaves.
3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The functional beverage according to claim 1, wherein the O-methylated catechin is derived from one selected from the group consisting of Benifuuki, Benifuji, Benihomare, Yaeho, Surugawase, Yutakamidori, Kanayamidori, Okumusashi, Seishin-taipan, Seishin-oolong, Ohba-oolong, Benibana, Benihikari, Yamakai, Yamamidori, Karabeni, Koushun, Souhhu, Okumidori ~~“Benifuuki”, “Benifuji”, “Benihomare”, “Yaeho”, “Surugawase”, “Yutakamidori”, “Kanayamidori”, “Okumusashi”, “Seishin-taipan”, “Seishin-oolong”, “Ohba-oolong”, “Benibana”, “Benihikari”, “Yamakai”, “Yamamidori”, “Karabeni”, “Koushun”, “Souhhu”, “Okumidori”~~ and mixtures thereof.

5. (Previously presented) The functional beverage according to claim 1, wherein the functional beverage is labeled to be effective for at least one of suppressing allergic rhinitis and effective for improving hyperlipemia and gallbladder/liver function.

6. (Original) A composition containing an O-methylated catechin expressed by the chemical formula (1) shown below, wherein the composition contains the O-methylated catechin in a constitutive effective amount as an allergic rhinitis-suppressing drug and a lipid-lowering drug.



• • Chemical formula (1)

[in which R1, R2, R3 and R4 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, X1 and X2 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group.]

7. (Original) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the composition is a food/beverage, internal medicine, liniment, nose wash, nose drops, cosmetic or eye wash.